

WINCANTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1958

Wincanton,
Somerset.
June, 1959.

To the
Rural District Council of Wincanton

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1958.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	64,540
Population (1958) ...	...	...	...	...	17,500
Number of inhabited houses (1958) ...	...	...	...	...	5,664
Rateable Value (1st April, 1958) ...	...	...	...	...	£143,912
Net Product of Penny Rate (1958) (estimated) ...	...	...	...	...	£600

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

BIRTHS

		Males	Females
Live Births	Total	131	136
	Legitimate	127	130
	Illegitimate	4	6
Still Births	Total	3	4
	Legitimate	3	4
	Illegitimate	0	0

DEATHS

Deaths from all causes: Total, 228. Males, 123. Females, 105.
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:

(a) from sepsis ...	...	...	nil
(b) from other causes ...	...	...	nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

			Males	Females
Total			4	6
Legitimate ...	...	...	3	5
Illegitimate ...	...	...	1	1

				Males	Females
Deaths of Infants	under one week	...	...	1	4
"	"	"	from one to four weeks		
			(inclusive) ...	0	1
"	"	"	from one to six months	2	1
"	"	"	from six to twelve months	1	0
Total				4	6
Deaths from Measles	(all ages)	...	...	...	...
"	Whooping Cough	(all ages)	...	...	...
"	Diarrhoea	(under two years of age)	...	...	...

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 228, compared with 210 in 1957.

The chief causes of Death were:

Old Age	...	...	...	20	Cancer	...	...	...	52
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	75	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	42

In all "Causes of Death":

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were 45

" " " " " 81 " 85 " 27

" " " " " 86 " 90 " 8

" " over the age of 90 were 7,

a total of 87 or 38.16 per cent of the total Deaths.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Puerperal Pyrexia...	2	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0
Measles ...	123	0	0
Whooping Cough...	9	0	0
Pneumonia ...	22	0	4
Tuberculosis:			
(a) Respiratory...	0	0	0
(b) Non-Respiratory ...	3	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	2	0

Notification of Infectious Diseases by Medical Practitioners was very satisfactory.

Ophthalmia Neonatorium

No case notified.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Cases of Cancer shew a considerable increase in 1958 (52) compared with 1957 (35).

The number of cases of Measles is above the average. This proved to be the commencement of an epidemic of this disease more extensive than any in my recollection.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT

A.—Professional Nursing in the Home

- (1) **General.**—There are eleven nurses in the district engaged in general district work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole district. There is also a Health Visitor in the district.
- (2) **For Infectious Diseases.**—Two of the cases of infectious disease were removed to an Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the district.

B.—Midwives

There are eleven certified midwives practising in the district.

C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres

In Wincanton there are ophthalmic and physiotherapy clinics provided and staffed by the County Council, and the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee respectively, and a physiotherapy clinic at Castle Cary staffed by the latter.

D.—Hospitals available for the District

- (1) **Tuberculosis.**—None.
- (2) **Isolation.**—None.
- (3) **Other.**—(a) There is a Cottage Hospital at Wincanton, known as the “Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital”, for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases.
(b) There is a Cottage Hospital at Templecombe, known as the “Merthyr Guest Memorial Hospital”, for the treatment of maternity cases.

(c) There is residential accommodation at Town View Wincanton for the aged, infirm etc., provided under the National Assistance Act, 1948 by the County Council.

(d) There is a Hospital at Wincanton, known as "Verrington Hospital", for aged persons, suffering from chronic ailments.

E.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children

None.

F.—Ambulance Facilities

(1) **For Infectious Cases.**—None in the District.

(2) **For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.**—There is a British Red Cross Society Ambulance, staffed by British Red Cross personnel, kept at Castle Cary. In addition, Ambulances from Shepton Mallet, Yeovil and Gillingham, Dorset, have been used as occasion requires.

H.—Scabies

No cases have been brought to my notice.

6.—LABORATORY WORK

Examinations of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Taunton and Yeovil, and considerable use of these laboratories has been made during the year.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at Messrs. Knight and Sons (Chemists), Wincanton, and is supplied to Practitioners on the National Health Service Prescription Form.

7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Public Health Department consists of the Senior Public Health Inspector, two Additional Public Health Inspectors, one Clerical Assistant, one Shorthand-Typist, all whole-time officers, and myself (a part-time officer).

8.—WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies of the area have been generally satisfactory in quality, although a few unsatisfactory results have been obtained notably in the Bruton, Milborne Port and Sparkford systems.

The unsatisfactory results in the Bruton supply are attributed to a breakdown in the chlorinating plant which was replaced in December. At Milborne Port the matter is under investigation, but chlorination appears to be the obvious remedy. The Sparkford supply has now been abandoned.

As regards quantity, this has been generally satisfactory.

Regular bacteriological and certain chemical examinations have been made of the water supplies with the results set out in the following table:

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public 23	16	7	—	40	10	4	—
Private 3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Water Supplies from Mains:

Direct to the Houses		By means of Standpipes	
No. of Dwelling Houses	Population (Estimated)	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population (Estimated)
Public 5,180	15,506	19	55
Private 368	1,142	—	

No. of parishes with piped water supply:

(i) from public mains, 31; (ii) from private reservoirs, 4.

No. of parishes without a piped supply of water:

Nil.

The Public Water Supplies liable to have plumbo-solvent action are Bruton, South Brewham, Charlton Musgrove and, to a lesser extent, Penselwood. At Charlton Musgrove the water is passed over Magnesite, but the efficiency of this treatment is open to question.

A liming plant is available for use at Penselwood. No treatment is undertaken at Brewham.

Chlorination

Chlorination of the Penselwood (including Wincanton), Templecombe, Bruton and Castle Cary supplies has been maintained throughout the year.

Water Supplies from Wells

No. of cases in which a piped supply was substituted for well water	nil
No. of cases in which a piped supply was substituted for other private sources	21
No. of houses relying on well supplies	60
No. of wells closed during the year	1

Extensions or improvements of Supplies during the year

New reservoirs at Bratton Seymour and Corton Ridge, Corton Denham and the Maperton Booster have been completed during the year.

The mains, Bratton Seymour to Yarlington, Osborne to Templecombe, Charlton Horethorne to Bratton Seymour and Wheat-sheaf, Corton Denham to South Cadbury, have been completed. The important effect of this is that public supply is now available in Corton Denham and South Cadbury, and will be so in North Cadbury in early 1959, all these parishes being ones in which the Private Supplies have recently proved insufficient to meet the demand in full. An extension has been laid to serve Woodside and Rats Castle, Sparkford.

Work is in progress on the Sigwells Reservoir, Corton Denham Booster, and the mains to North Cadbury, Castle Cary to Alford, Lovington to North Barrow, Penselwood to Redlynch, and Redlynch to Bruton.

Future proposals include a linking main—Templecombe to South Cheriton, New Park Wood to South Brewham, South Cheriton to Wincanton, and a new reservoir at Hull Lane, Charlton Horethorne.

9.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems: Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Henstridge, Milborne Port, Queen Camel, South Barrow, Sparkford, Wincanton, Templecombe and North Cheriton.

Particulars of extensions, major renewals and future proposals are set out in the appended report from the Senior Public Health Inspector.

10.—CAMPING SITES

Number of Camping Sites (Permanent)	1
Acreage of Site	4.1
Maximum number allowed per acre (caravans)	7
Estimated number of campers during the year (average)	15
No. of Annual Licences issued for individual moveable dwellings	19

11.—FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning.

12.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

(a) Total number of Registered Dairies	9
(b) Total number of Registered Distributors in the area (including 5 outside the area)	18
(c) Total number of Registered Distributors outside the area	5
(d) Number of Supplementary licences issued to dealers whose dairies are outside the area. (4 Pasteurised; 5 T.T.)	9
(e) Number of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk ...	18

Milk Sampling

Nil.

Ice Cream

No. of premises registered for:

(a) Manufacture and retail	Nil
(b) Manufacture only	Nil
(c) Retail only	61

No Ice Cream samples were taken.

Premises where food is prepared

See report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Five informal notices have been complied with.

13.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES

(a) No. in use under Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	—
(b) No. owned or leased by Local Authority	—
(c) Private slaughter-houses: 4. Operating ..	4
(d) Bacon factories: 1. Operating	1

(e) No. in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption... .. —

Full details are included in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

Knackers Yards

Number Registered: Nil.

14.—SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

No. in area:

(a) Owned by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Privately owned	...	...	...	...	2

Estimated average number of bathers daily during season: 25—50.

Water used for filling pool: From Well.

Treatment: Recirculation, Aeration and Automatic Chlorination.

These Pools are at King's School, Bruton and Hazelgrove School, Queen Camel.

Samples taken: Nil.

15.—HOUSING

Total number of permanent dwellings in District	...	...	5,664
Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority	...	...	1,557

Action taken during the year

(1) Number of houses included in Clearance Areas still to be made	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of houses demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of houses demolished or closed under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Sec. 17 of the Housing Act, 1957)	...	...	18
(5) Number of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	...	...	Nil
(6) Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	Nil
(7) Number of unfit houses occupied under licence	...	...	Nil
(8) Number of houses made fit during year	...	...	38
(9) <i>Rent Act, 1957 (1st Schedule)</i> . Certificates of Disrepair:			
(a) Number of applications received	...	...	2
(b) Number of Certificates issued	...	...	1
(c) Undertakings to repair accepted	...	...	1

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		<i>Gained</i> from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	<i>Lost</i> from conversion of two or more houses to one
	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes		
Local Authority ...	14	7	—	—	—	—
Private Enterprise	—	17	—	16	5	8
Totals	14	24	—	16	5	8

No. of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1958		Housing Programme for 1959	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes
W.R.D.C. 689	166	—	14

Improvement Grants

Average cost per dwelling approved: £890 (1958).

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority: £16,022 (1949-58).

(Further details will be found in the Public Health Inspector's Report).

Houses required

(i) To abate overcrowding	Nil
(ii) To replace houses scheduled for demolition	100
(iii) For other purposes	200
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year	400
Number of Council Houses sold during year	Nil

No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31-12-57	Gained from conversions etc. and erections during 1958 (L.A. and P.E.)	Total (a) plus (b)	Less houses demolished, closed, etc. during year	No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31-12-58	
				L.A.	P.E.
(a)	(b)				
5647	47	5694	30	1557	4107

16.—FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	16	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	52	5	—
TOTAL	99	68	8	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):	3	3	—	3	—
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	4	3	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	8	—	6	—

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
Wearing apparel —Making, etc.	134	—	—	—	—	—

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Wincanton,
Somerset.

May, 1959.

T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Balsam Gate,
Wincanton.

Sir,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

The total number of inspections was 4,755, made up as follows:

Public Health Acts

Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Drainage, Sewers and Sewage Disposal...	...	...	...	...	...	...	397
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Refuse and Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	127

New Buildings

Byelaws and Town Planning	...	...	...	...	...	1,582
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Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	626
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Food and Drugs Act

Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	981
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	17

Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
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Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
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Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
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Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	260
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4,755

POPULATION SERVED BY PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Popu- lation Census 1951	Total No. of houses	Public Supplies				Private Supplies	
			Supplied by pipe		Supplied by standpipe		Supplied by pipe	
			No. of houses	Est. Pop.	No. of houses	Est. Pop.	No. of houses	Est. Pop.
Alford	76	24	24	77	—	—	—	—
Ansford	506	171	168	504	—	—	1	3
Bratton Seymour	145	37	30	120	—	—	7	28
Brewham	443	126	120	418	—	—	4	13
Bruton	1,614	567	556	1,665	—	—	9	27
Castle Cary ..	1,575	641	631	1,610	—	—	7	17
Charlton Horethorne	492	161	150	469	6	18	2	6
Charlton Musgrove	359	122	113	345	—	—	5	15
Compton Pauncefoot	178	60	25	75	—	—	35	108
Corton Denham	222	70	8	26	—	—	59	192
Cucklington ..	219	65	60	196	—	—	3	9
Henstridge ..	1,096	380	366	1,074	3	8	3	9
Holton	209	75	66	185	—	—	7	20
Horsington ..	611	169	155	542	—	—	11	38
Lovington ..	201	55	55	203	—	—	—	—
Maperton ..	102	37	29	81	—	—	5	14
Milborne Port ..	1,637	575	565	1,635	3	8	6	17
North Barrow ..	85	27	27	89	—	—	—	—
North Cadbury ..	704	224	112	358	—	—	93	304
North Cheriton	157	63	62	155	—	—	1	3
Penselwood ..	254	87	76	220	—	—	6	17
Pitcombe ..	344	117	99	297	—	—	13	39
Queen Camel ..	522	178	166	498	—	—	4	12
Shepton Montague	205	66	50	155	—	—	5	16
South Barrow ..	115	43	43	116	—	—	—	—
South Cadbury ..	268	95	19	27	—	—	69	196
Sparkford ..	397	134	129	387	—	—	5	15
Stoke Trister ..	305	104	98	294	—	—	3	9
Templecombe ..	1,015	337	329	987	7	21	3	9
Wincanton ..	2,537	808	807	2,560	—	—	—	—
Yarlington ..	158	46	42	138	—	—	2	6
	16,751	5,664	5,180	15,506	19	55	368	1,142

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

This year there have been important changes in administration. Following the resignation of Mr. Earnshaw, the Housing Manager and Architect, the Council took the opportunity to combine the Housing and Water Departments to form a Works Department with a qualified Engineer in control.

Once this step was agreed, the decision to relieve my Department of sewerage functions and of control of Refuse Collection followed.

Control of Refuse was transferred on the Eleventh of April, 1958.

The transfer of sewerage matters was arranged to take place gradually, and at the time of the preparation of this report (May, 1959) the only parishes left under my control were North Cheriton, Templecombe and Wincanton.

SEWERAGE

Bruton

The proposals of the Consulting Engineer for the reconstruction of the Sewage Works have been approved by the Minister and a Contract has been signed. Work has been arranged to begin early in 1959.

Henstridge

The Works are in need of modernisation but they have functioned reasonably satisfactorily.

Milborne Port

The Works continue to function satisfactorily. There has been no further report from the Consulting Engineer on the reconstruction of these Works. Removal of accumulated sludge, renewal of the faulty outfall sewer and improvement of the upper carrier of the irrigation area are matters which continue to need urgent attention.

The ingress of surface and infiltrating water to the sewers create problems both in the sewerage system and at the Works.

North Cheriton

The amount of surface water gaining access to the sewers makes the flow greater than the filters will take.

Templecombe

The new Works are operating satisfactorily.

The Tor Hill Pumping Station, despite the fitting of a light reflux valve, still permits sewage to stand in the two connecting sewers necessitating regular cleansing which should not have been necessary.

The amount of surface water gaining access to the sewers, is such as to cause discharge of sewage from a manhole in the highway. Much of this surface water is derived from drains on the Council Housing Estates.

Wincanton

The Works have continued to function satisfactorily. Drying of sludge has presented a serious problem following the wet summer. The amount of frothing due to the use of detergents has tended to decrease.

Sewerage Programme

The Engineer is proceeding with the preparation of proposals for the North Cadbury Scheme, next on the list.

In several Parishes there are serious nuisances and pollution in ditches arising from the discharge of Public Sewers, and it is intended to keep these under observation and report thereon from time to time.

HOUSING

The following table gives details of the thirty-eight dwellings erected during the year, the figures in brackets being those for 1957:

	Council Houses				Total	Private Enter- prise
	Bungalows		Non-parlour houses			
	S.S.8	S.S.9	N.P.4	N.P.6		
Bruton	—	—	—	13	13	1
Castle Cary	—	—	—	—	—	2
Charlton Horethorne	2	—	—	—	2	—
Charlton Musgrove	—	—	—	—	—	1
Corton Denham ...	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lovington	—	—	—	—	—	1
Milborne Port ...	—	—	—	—	—	3
North Cadbury ...	2	2	2	—	6	—
Penselwood	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pitcombe	—	—	—	—	—	1
South Barrow ...	—	—	—	—	—	1
Stoke Trister ...	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wincanton	—	—	—	—	—	4
(1957)	4	2	2	13	21 (43)	17 (11)

Slum Clearance Programme

Steady progress continues in dealing with unfit houses.

The slump in the erection of new Council Houses has affected the number of families in “condemned” houses who have been rehoused, seventeen this year as against twenty-nine last year.

The number of houses subject to Demolition Orders, Closing Orders, etc., still occupied is forty-nine.

Requisitioning

One property remains under requisition.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—Improvement Grants

The policy of making Improvement Grants in all suitable cases has been continued and I append a Table showing the progress since the commencement of the scheme.

Number of houses involved:

	Applications					Approvals					Resulting in houses		
	Re- ceived	With- drawn	Re- fused	Ap- proved	Under Con- sider- ation	Aban- doned	Com- pleted	Work in Hand	Not start- ed	Total	Saved	Gain'd	Lost
Agricultural Cottages	76	10	—	61	5	1	46	9	5	61	16	3	—
Owner/ Occupied	40	4	4	31	1	1	28	2	—	31	3	1	—
Other ..	41	3	—	16	22	—	15	1	—	16	7	1	3
Position at 31/12/58	157	17	4	108	28	2	90	12	5	108	26	5	3
Position at 31/12/57	113	17	4	90	2	1	69	18	2	90	17	2	1
Progress for 1958	44	—	—	18	—	1	21	—	5	—	9	3	2

Moveable Dwellings

Seven new licences have been issued.
Eleven licences have been renewed.

STATUTORY AND INFORMAL ACTION

Informal Action

In addition to the 43 Informal Notices outstanding at the beginning of the year, 48 have been served. Of the total of 91, 5 have been withdrawn and 46 have been complied with.

The following is a summary of the results obtained:

Remedied

Overflowing and leaky cesspools	...	...	...	...	14
Dangerous or dilapidated buildings	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous Nuisances	...	...	...	...	10
Factories and Workplaces:					
(a) Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	3
(c) Fire Escapes	...	...	...	...	1
Rodent Infestation	...	...	...	...	3
Contraventions—Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	5
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	1

Statutory Action

Public Health Acts

Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	5
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Housing Acts

Notices served under Section 16	...	...	...	...	19
Undertakings Not to Use accepted	...	...	...	...	4
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	9
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	2
Notices served under Section 9	...	...	...	...	1
Notices served under Section 36	...	...	...	...	1
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	6
Houses closed	...	...	...	...	12

Other Results

Houses made fit	...	...	...	...	38
Houses lost by conversion	...	...	...	...	8

HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE

The House Refuse and Salvage Scheme continues to operate satisfactorily by direct labour. Two ten cubic yard side-loading vehicles are used.

Weekly collections are made in Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port and Wincanton, involving an estimated population of 7,500.

The remainder of the District, with the exception of a few outlying and isolated premises, is covered each fortnight.

Charges are made for the collection of trade refuse.

The Engineer has supplied the following information:

	Tons			Value £s.		
	1958	1957	1956	1958	1957	1956
Paper	252.45	242.40	210.65	1941.41	1889.66	1660.1
Ferrous Metals	2.44	9.59	6.15	8.70	24.54	14.8
Non-Ferrous Metals	0.30	0.06	0.10	4.00	4.84	8.45
Textiles	3.64	4.33	3.71	57.03	88.59	62.0
Bones	0.02	—	0.2	0.11	—	1.2
	258.85	256.38	220.81	2011.25	2007.63	1746.55

With the transfer of these functions to the Engineer's Department it is interesting to recall in brief the history of this service.

Prior to the last Great War, there were collections of house refuse in the larger Parishes only, and these were controlled by Parochial Committees.

In 1940 (at the request of the Government), a separate collection of salvage was started throughout the district, with village

depots, followed later by central depots sited successively at Templecombe, Castle Cary and Wincanton.

A comprehensive scheme of refuse collection was commenced in 1949 with a central depot at Wincanton—later removed to Maperton.

By treating the operation as a business venture in which the householder was the “customer”, the Salvage Scheme secured a great measure of support from the Public. It was successful throughout all the difficulties of the War and Post War slumps. The maintenance of this good-will is necessary to continue the recovery of useful raw material and to maintain a satisfactory profit, and I wish the Engineer every success in this work.

Closet Accommodation

There were 33 conversions from earth to water closets during the year.

Public Conveniences

There are five public conveniences in the District, one each at Bruton, Castle Cary and Milborne Port, and two at Wincanton.

FOOD

(1) The number and types of food premises in the District are as follows:

Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	57
Grocery Stores (includes greengroceries and village stores)	...	...	...	79
Butcheries	...	...	...	16
Confectioneries (includes sweets, cakes and ice cream)	...	...	...	21
Cafes	...	...	...	15
Fried fish and wet fish shops	...	...	...	6
Licensed slaughterhouses	...	...	...	5
Egg Packing and Poultry Plucking Stations	...	...	...	1
Dairies	...	...	...	9
Canteens	...	...	...	12
Bakeries	...	...	...	18

(2) The number of Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is: †79
For the sale of ice cream:

Groceries...	...	...	...	30
Confectioneries	...	...	...	18
Dairies	...	...	...	1
Works Canteens...	...	...	...	1
Cafes	...	...	...	11
				—
				61

		<i>Br. for.</i>	61	
Fried Fish shops and cafes registered for fried fish	7			
	—		7	
Registered for sausage making: Butchers' shops	12			
Registered for sausage making: Bacon factories	1			
	—		13	
			—	†81
(†Two premises are each registered under two headings.)				
Number of registered dairies				9
Number of inspections of registered food premises ...				151

Food Hygiene Regulations

Each food trader has been supplied with a memorandum of requirements under these regulations and follow-up action is planned.

Miscellaneous Foods

During the year 1,537 tins and packages of various foodstuffs, weighing approximately 21 cwts., were condemned. These foods were disposed of by burial at the Refuse Tip.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Consideration has been given to the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

The problem of smoke is relatively small in this district, although trouble has been experienced in a few cases.

Although the establishment of smoke control areas is considered unnecessary, it is intended to give full support to the smoke abatement campaign.

PETROLEUM

The question of petroleum storage has been reconsidered in the light of Home Office recommendations and a revised form of licence has been approved.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

A number of inspections have been made of factories under Section 34 of the Factories Act, and seven Fire Escape Certificates have been issued.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The County Council continued the delegation of their powers under Section 38, sub-section (3), (4) and (5) of the Act, which deal

with lighting, facilities for meals and for washing. No contraven-
tions have been found.

MEAT

The slaughterhouses licensed, in addition to the Bacon Factory at Bruton, are one in Castle Cary, one in Yenston (Henstridge), and two in Wincanton.

Despite difficulties, adequate inspection has been maintained. This has, of necessity, involved a reduction of work in other direc-
tions, but it is obvious from the table of results that this work is of
utmost importance, and every effort will be made to maintain this
standard and to inspect all carcasses of animals slaughtered for
human consumption.

Condemned meat, after the Manager has signed an under-
taking that it shall not be used for human consumption, is slashed
with a knife and the meat is then used either at pet shops or sold to
merchants for fertilizer, etc.

It is my opinion that it is essential that there should be legal
power to dye all condemned meat.

The results are included in the following table:

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Goats, Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	570	357	2,464	894	9,197
Number inspected ...	570	357	2,464	894	9,197
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	6	50	52	27	81
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	32	96	29	20	1,357
Percentage of the number in- spected affected ...	6.66	40.89	3.28	5.25	15.63
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	1	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	29	—	—	171
Percentage of the number in- spected affected ...	0.87	8.40	0.04	—	1.90
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	7	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	—	1	—	—	—

Meat Inspection

Arrangements have been made by the Ministry to make payments to Councils where the amount of meat inspected is deemed to be greater than the amount estimated to be needed for consumption in the district.

Slaughterhouses

After many years of uncertainty, the pattern of future slaughterhouse policy is becoming clearer.

Councils are directed to consider in conjunction with the Trade and adjoining Local Authorities how far existing and proposed slaughterhouse facilities are likely to be sufficient and to report the facts to the Ministry.

There is no indication that slaughtering on Sundays and during night-time will be prevented, and the main difficulty of providing efficient meat inspection will remain.

BYELAWS AND TOWN PLANNING

Byelaws

The following tables summarise the action taken during the year:

In abeyance at 31st December, 1957	...	...	4	
New applications	...	...	257	
				261
Approved	...	...	249	
Rejected	...	...	7	
Withdrawn	...	...	1	
				257
In abeyance at 31st December, 1958	...	...	...	4
Infringements:				
Relating to lack of notices, etc.	...	...	...	15
Number which also included defects	...	...	...	5
Defective work corrected	...	...	...	Nil
No further action	...	...	...	6
Plans presented	...	...	...	8
Action deferred	...	...	...	1

Town Planning

The arrangements for delegation to this Council include the division of applications into three categories by the Area Planning Officer, as follows:

- Category "A" These, not appearing to involve a planning principle, are dealt with by the District Council.
- Category "B" These, which may involve a planning principle, are also delegated to the District Council, but if the Council disagree with the advice of the Area Planning Officer, the application is referred to a special Sub-Committee.

Category “C” These are dealt with by the County Council.
 and “D”

	B/F 1st Jan. 1958	New Appli- cations	Total	No. Ap- proved	No. Re- fused	No. With- drawn	Not Yet Cat.	Per- mitted Develop- ment	No Deci- sion
Cat. A ...	4	33	37	34	—	1	—	—	2
Cat. B ...	30	106	136	97	2	6	—	—	31
Cat. C ...	38	108	146	90	16	11	—	—	29
Cat. D ...	21	39	60	37	—	1	—	—	22
Others ...	—	31	31	—	—	—	15	16	—
	93	317	410	258	18	19	15	16	84

Infringements:
 39 cases were reported during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

No charge is made for operations at dwellings.
 Charges based on the actual cost of operations continue to be made in respect of business and agricultural premises.
 The sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are all subject to regular treatment.
 The summary of operations is given in the following table:

	Class of Property			
	L.A.	D.H's.	Bus.	Agric.
Prevalence of rats and/or mice ...	2	160	16	17
Number infested by:				
Rats: Major	2	18	4	5
Minor	—	128	10	11
Mice: Major	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	14	2	1
Number of properties inspected ...	2	263	38	29
Number of properties treated ...	2	160	16	17

I am, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 R. G. GRAY,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

